

REMARKS

Drawings

Replacement drawings are enclosed that correct the defects noted in the Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review. The drawings have been redrafted to address the defects. Also, Figure 1 has been corrected so the reference number 14 is properly directed to the area of the rectangular recess where the filter is inserted. Figure 2 has been corrected so that reference number 11 is properly directed to the CCD, as the original drawing in Figure 2 had reference number 10 directed to the CCD and reference number 11 directed to an unidentified element. Reference number 10 has been deleted from Figure 2. No new material was added to the drawings. Applicant submits that the enclosed drawings are acceptable for use as formal drawings in the final patent publication.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include elements from claims 2 and 3 and claims 10, 11 and 12, respectively. AS a result, claims 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12 have been cancelled as redundant. Claims 4 and 13 have been amended to include language to conform with amended claims 1 and 9. Claim 7

has been amended solely to correct a clerical error. No new material has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The cancellation of claims 3, 11 and 12 eliminates the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections for those claims (Paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of the Office Action). The amendment to claim 1 adds the proper antecedent for "said filter housing" in claims 6-8 (paragraph 3 of the Office Action). Claim 13 has been amended to prove the proper antecedent for "said filter" and "said filter housing", addressing the rejections for claims 13-15 (paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action). Applicant submits that all 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections have been addressed and overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,011,661 issued to Weng.

Weng discloses a lens holder that secures a lens assembly over a CCD and color filter. The lens holder is secured directly over the CCD and has a threaded opening to receive and attach a lens assembly. Applicant is claiming

a removable adapter that has a threaded end to receive a lens assembly and a keyed end that is coupled to a base on the camera board. Weng does not disclose an adapter, nor does Weng disclose the use of keys and keyways to secure the lens, via the adapter, to the camera board. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejections no longer apply.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weng in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,104,649 issued to Tanaka et al. Claims 6 and 13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Weng in view of Official notice being taken of the state of the art.

Weng discloses a threaded lens holder as discussed above. Tanaka discloses an adapter for a camera lens that provides a digital signal to the camera containing the full open F number of the lens. The lens disclosed by Tanaka uses a set of arcuate recesses and pawls to secure the lens to the camera. The adapter disclosed by Tanaka has no bearing on the method used to attach the lens to the camera. The methods of attachment disclosed by Tanaka do not include threaded camera lenses. Neither Tanaka nor

Weng discloses an adapter that is positioned between the lens and the camera/camera board, let alone an adapter that has a threaded end for receiving a lens and a keyed end to couple to a base on the camera/camera board.

The advantage of using Applicant's adapter lies not in the faster changeover speed provided by the key and keyway coupling system, but in the fixed focal distance that results from using this system. The key and keyway system results in the adapter being positioned a known distance from the camera board. When the threaded lens is inserted into the adapter, the known distance allows the lens to be threaded such that it is effectively focused without the need for further large focal adjustments after it has been coupled to the camera/camera board. This advantage is significant when replacing or changing lenses on cameras that are mounted in hard-to-reach locations, such as security cameras. An additional advantage is that the adapter can be attached to the lens by the manufacturer and calibrated at the factory, leaving the end consumer with an assembly (lens and adapter) that can be rapidly switched out without the need for manual adjustments after installation. By using a separate adapter, as in the

present invention, rather than coupling the lens directly to the camera or camera board, all these advantages can be gained.

In light of the amendments to claims 1 and 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections to claims 6 and 13 no longer apply.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the objections and rejections have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully solicits favorable reconsideration of the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: Geoffrey R. Myers

Geoffrey R. Myers

Reg. No. 24,897

Attorney for Applicant

Hall, Priddy, Myers
& Vande Sande
10220 River Road, Suite 200
Potomac, Maryland 20854
Tel: (301) 983-2500